

25X1

29 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with John Steel of TIME-LIFE-FORTUNE
this Afternoon at 4:30

1. As you know Gordon Gray has seen Steel; General Persons will see him at lunch today.
2. The following re Steel from Gordon will be of interest to you.
 - a. Steel himself is a "good citizen"; obviously under instructions from his top command to seek enlightenment on the "missile situation"; willing to listen and be convinced; possibly favorable to the administration.
 - b. What Steel has uppermost on his mind.

"Why have our recent estimates 'downgraded' Soviet missile capabilities?"

He may allege that whereas the missile "gap" as per the McElroy Statement was 3 to 1, it is now said to be something less than 3 to 1.

If recent estimates do not in effect downgrade the Soviets, in what respects do they differ from prior estimates?

Why do they differ?

- c. Steel may also have in mind our estimates on Bombers. Gordon suggested to General Persons on the phone that he, Persons, allude to Bomber estimates and invite Steel to ask you about them.

3. Gordon urges that you endeavor

- a. to cope with Steel's question re "downgrading"
- b. to give Steel as much enlightenment as possible along the capabilities/programming line of your speech (i.e., modifications in methods of estimating as new information becomes available).
- c. to give him as much as you can on the "new information"
- d. to probe Steel as to what figures he has in mind— where he got them.

SHERMAN KENT